

USEPA 2017 Method Update Rule

NPDES Roundtable Meeting | January 17, 2018

Christine Sotelo, Chief

Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program



Mission & Vision

- ▶ **MISSION:** To implement a sustainable accreditation program that ensures laboratories generate environmental and public health data of known, consistent, and documented quality to meet stakeholder needs.
- ▶ **VISION:** Through effective program implementation and continuous improvement of ELAP, California will produce the highest quality scientific data as a foundation for its environmental and public health programs and decisions.

The Meaning of Accreditation

- Regulate and accredit environmental testing labs who produce data used by State agencies for regulatory purpose
- Regulate and enforce labs to verify staff, instruments, quality management systems in a lab are competent and sufficient has traceable data and can historically recreate data of known and documented quality
- We ensure labs have demonstrated capability to analyze environmental samples using approved methods
- We don't ensure data quality. It's the data users responsibility e.g. State Agencies and programs who use the data for environmental and public health decisions

Updated Methods Now Required by CWA

- ▶ Effective September 27, 2017
- ▶ Permit Writers should be updating / verifying methods in NPDES permits (on going)
- ▶ Laboratories are aware of the MUR
 - ▶ Email blast sent & discussed at ELAP's Environmental Laboratory Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
- ▶ Labs can apply for updated methods June 2018

Why Is This Important?

- ▶ Updated methods are now available to improve your data quality to:
 - ▶ Achieve your regulatory need
 - ▶ Achieve your monitoring goals
 - ▶ Achieve your Data Quality Objective
- ▶ Keeps current with technology advances
- ▶ Defined procedures for Alternate Test Procedures

Selecting Analytical Test Method

- ▶ Advise reviewing methods during every permit renewal
 - ▶ There may be more appropriate methods available and in use
 - ▶ USEPA recommended methods
- ▶ Consult your Quality Assurance Officer
- ▶ ELAP has a technical advisory committee that may be able to help with emerging regulatory issues
 - ▶ Perchlorate & Pesticides in Region 6

State Agency Partners Committee

- ▶ ELAP facilitates meetings of CA regulatory agency representatives
- ▶ Advise ELAP of their regulatory needs
 - ▶ Accurate Data | Consistency | Robust Quality Assurance Program | Legally Defensible
- ▶ Regulatory Needs DRIVE Accreditation Program
- ▶ We invite Regional Board participation on committee
 - ▶ Next meeting is Mid March 2018

ELAP Contacts

- ▶ General Questions & State Agency Partner Committee - Christine Sotelo
- ▶ Enforcement Complaint referrals - Jacob Oaxaca
- ▶ LOOKING FOR A LAB? Search ELAP's GIS Map to find accredited laboratories www.waterboards.ca.gov/elap
- ▶ Technical Laboratory Questions elap_technical@waterboards.ca.gov
- ▶ Proficiency Testing Questions elap_pt@waterboards.ca.gov
- ▶ www.waterboards.ca.gov/elap
- ▶ ELAP Wiki on the Intranet